(a) whether the lethargic handling of foodgrains movement by Food Corporation of India (FCI) has caused inflationary pressure on the food front;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether foodgrains stocks available with FCI are not moved quickly enough to the consumer resulting in scarcity of foodgrains in the open market and inflation;

(d) if so, the existing position of foodgrains reserve in Central Pool as on 30 November, 2009; and

(e) the steps taken by Government to maintain buffer stock of foodgrains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) No, Sir. FCI undertakes planned movement of food grains from procuring States to other States keeping in view the requirement of food grains under Targeted Public Distribution System, Other Welfare Scheme and Open Market Sale Scheme (Domestic).

(b) In view of reply to part (a) above, question does not arise.

(c) No, Sir. The food grains stocks are moved to the consuming regions depending upon the existing stock, requirement of the States & storage capacity available in the region. During 2009-10 (upto October, 2009), 71.49 lakh MT of wheat and 72.76 lakh MT of rice was moved as against 50.18 lakh MT of wheat and 71.32 lakh MT of rice respectively, during the corresponding period of 2008-09.

(d) and (e) In view of reply to part (c) above, question does not arise.

Food security

2504. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI:
SHRI N.K. SINGH:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether an Empowered Group of Ministers (EGoM) has been constituted to work on the modalities of the proposed National Food Security Act (NFSA);

(b) if so, whether the said EGoM has since submitted its report to Government;

(c) whether Government is reluctant in implementing the National Food Security Act; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and strategies formulated to ensure food security to every citizen in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Government is committed to enact the National Food Security Act (NFSA). Empowered Group of Ministers is examining various issues related to the proposed NFSA to firm up its provisions.